

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 02050 241156Z

46

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 DPW-01 AID-05 IGA-01

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCS-03 SCA-01 OPR-02 A-01

SY-05 OC-05 CCO-00 SCCT-01 USSS-00 OMB-01 /103 W

----- 072111

R 240924Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3027

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCPAC

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMCONSUL C FANG MAI

SECDEF WASHDC

COMIPAC HONOLULU HI

MACTHAI J-2 BKK THAI

DEPCHIEF UDORN RTAFB

13 AF ASIC CLARK AFB RP

USSAG/IN NKP RTAFB THAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2050

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, LA

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN BAN HOUEI SAI

REF: VIENTIANE 1998

1. ACCOMPANIED BY USAID DIRECTOR MANN AND AREA COORDINATOR  
HUXTABLE (BAN HOUEI SAI), I MET URGENTLY WITH THE PRIME  
MINISTER MARCH 23RD TO BRIEF HIM ON THE SITUATION IN BAN  
HOUEI SAI.

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PAGE 02 VIENTI 02050 241156Z

2. I REVIEWED THE BACKGROUND OF THIS AFFAIR NOTING THAT THE THREATS TO OUR AMERICAN AND LAO PERSONNEL MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN USAID OPERATIONS AT THIS TIME. HUXTABLE THEN TOLD HIS STORY IN LAO.

2. THE PRIME MINISTER WAS GRAVE AND LISTENED ATTENTIVELY. HE SAID HE WOULD GET HOLD OF GENERAL VANNASENG (THE GOVERNOR) AND GET THINGS UNDER CONTROL. MEANWHILE HE WOULD APPRECIATE OUR KEEPING OUR AMERICAN PERSONNEL OUT OF BAN HOUEI SAI. AFTER GLANCING AT AN ANTI-AMERICAN LEAFLET WHICH HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTED IN BAN HOUEI SAI, HE COMMENTED THAT HE WOULD ALSO TALK TO FONMIN PHOUMI. THE LATTER HAD ASKED HIM TO APPROACH THE AMERICANS FOR INCREASED AID. THIS WAS A CURIOUS WAY TO ELICIT AMERICAN SUPPORT.

3. WITHOUT BELABORING THE POINT, I STRESSED THE SERIOUS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF OUR BEING RUN OUT OF BAN HOUEI SAI OWING TO THE DISORDER CAUSED BY A HANDFUL OF SO-CALLED STUDENTS. I ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR OUR LAO EMPLOYEES AS WELL AS CONSIDERABLE SKEPTICISM REGARDING THE ABILITY OF GENERAL VANNASENG TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION GIVEN THE WEAKNESS OF THE VIENTIANE SIDE IN THE AREA. I ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE EVIDENT LACK OF REPORTING ON THIS SITUATION THROUGH LAO POLICE AND MILITARY CHANNELS. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT OUR INFORMATION WAS THE FIRST HE HAD RECEIVED AND REPEATED THAT HE WOULD SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE.

4. COMMENT: I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS LATEST INCIDENT IN BAN HOUEI SAI IS PART OF AN ORCHESTRATED PATHET LAO SCHEME, BUT I SEE GRAVE CONSEQUENCES ARISING FROM THE RLG INABILITY TO MAINTAIN THE MOST BASIC LEVEL OF SECURITY IN THE TOWN. THE AMERICANS THERE AND OUR LAO EMPLOYEES ARE TOUGH AND EXPERIENCED AND HAVE BEEN THROUGH SIMILAR NONSENSE IN OCTOBER AND DECEMBER. THEIR DECISION TO SKIP ACROSS THE RIVER WAS ABSOLUTELY RIGHT. WHEN THE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES CANNOT CONTEND WITH A HANDFUL

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 VIENTI 02050 241156Z

OF GUN-TOTING VANDALS FOR FEAR OF PATHET LAO REPRISALS OR POLITICAL PRESSURES, A SITUATION EXISTS WHICH CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS ANARCHY. IF WORST COMES TO WORST WE WILL ORGANIZE A WELL-MANAGED AND I HOPE DIGNIFIED WITHDRAWAL. AT THE MOMENT WE HAVE BRIEFED ALL APPROPRIATE CIVIL AND MILITARY LEADERS AND CAN ONLY WAIT AND SEE.

WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ANTIAMERICAN FEELING, POLITICAL SITUATION, BAN HOUEI SAI  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750102-0143  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SITUATION IN BAN HOUEI SAI  
**TAGS:** PINS, MOPS, CPRS, LA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006